



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiromi KATAOKA

Title: SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING APPARATUS, METHOD

OF SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING, PROGRAM FOR SIMILAR PATTERN SEARCHING, AND FRACTIONATION

**APPARATUS** 

Appl. No.: 10/580,252

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Examiner: Sheela C. CHAWAN

Art Unit: 2624

Confirmation Number: 2043

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated April 14, 2009, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: